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GN05006

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REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. New claims 16-21 are allowable as combinations of the subject matter of claims 6-8 and 11-13 with base claims as indicated in the 11/7/06 Office Action.

No new subject matter has been added to the specification or claims.

Claims 1-5, 9-10 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Cleary et al. (US 6,457,823) in view of Koike et al. (US 5,767,876). This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

In determining a prima facie case for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, it is necessary to show that the combination of prior art teachings is proper, and that those teachings are sufficient to *suggest* making the claimed modifications to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Cleary discloses an ink jet printing method and print head arrangement wherein a carriage holds a series of ink jet print heads which may deposit four layers of ink simultaneously on a region of the substrate located beneath the four sets of print heads (Cleary col.4, lines 39-43). Cleary further discloses that the paths w1-w2-w3 successively printed with the print head arrangement do not overlap (Cleary col. 5, lines 17-34). Cleary thereby implicitly discloses that during the printing of a single path, the ink drops from the four different colors of ink may be printed drop-on-drop before they are exposed to an amount of energy, referred to as the "set energy".

Cleary does not disclose that successive ink drops printed drop-on-drop have a different viscosity, surface tension or curing speed. Cleary neither disclose that the viscosity, surface tension or curing speed of ink drops printed drop-on-drop vary in a graduated manner within a given range from the first to the last drop applied.

GN05006

PATENT

The cited text passage from Koike is from the background of the invention and describes an ink jet printing method wherein a solution is provided to reduce bleeding between a color area printed adjacent to a black area. The solution provides the printing of the color area with an ink having a surface tension less than 40 dyn/cm at 20°C and the black areas with an ink having a surface tension of 40 dyn/cm or more at 20°C. *In Koike, the different ink types are therefore used in different areas of the printed image and within one image area (e.g. the color area) the inks (e.g. the color inks) all have the same surface tension.* Koike thereby reduces the bleeding between different adjacent image areas.

Koike does not disclose or suggest using inks with different surface tension within the same image area and certainly not for drop-on-drop printing. In contrast, current claim 1 is directed to first and second ink drops *placed on top of each other* “wherein the first and second ink drops have a *different viscosity, surface tension or curing speed*”. Therefore, even if Cleary and Koike were combined, Koike would not overcome the shortcomings of Cleary and the combination would not result in the invention of claim 1.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

A Petition for Extension of Time is appended to this Amendment. Please charge the one-month extension fee, additional claim fees, plus any other fees due to Deposit Account No. 13-3377 under this general authorization.

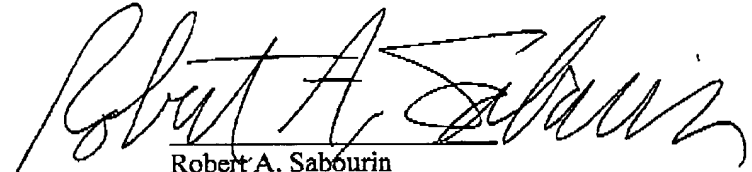
It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

GN05006

PATENT

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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